



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer-  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held November 18, 2008, the Board took the following action:

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The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisor Antonovich:

“Abused and neglected children who cannot be safely reunified with their birth parents deserve stability and permanency as soon as possible. The current California Rules of Court require that all Juvenile Court orders, including Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) orders that free children for adoption, be subject to a 60 to 70 day deadline for birth parents to file a notice of appeal. The Rules of Court, which only allow a TPR order to be served by mail, require that the 60 to 70 day deadline not begin until the Court Clerk mails the TPR order to the birth parents’ last known address. Technically, if a Court Clerk inadvertently delays or fails to mail the order, the timeline for birth parents to merely file the notice of appeal is even further extended or never starts running. Additionally, the uncertainty of whether birth parents will actually file an appeal frequently causes adoptive parents to choose against proceeding with adoptive placement until the 60 to 70 day appeal period formally runs out.

“In the eyes of a child, when all efforts and services to safely reunify with his or her birth parents fail, every month on the journey to permanency makes a world of difference.

“Therefore, a statutory change to the Rules of Court is necessary to shorten the birth parents’ deadline to file a notice of appeal, thus further improving timelines to permanency.”

Arnold Sachs addressed the Board.

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After discussion, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, seconded by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, unanimously carried, the Chief Executive Officer and Director of Children and Family Services were directed to take the following actions:

1. Work with the State Legislative Delegation to sponsor legislation in the 2009-10 State Legislative Session to shorten the deadline for birth parents to file a Notice of Appeal of Termination of Parental Rights orders from 60 to 70 days to a maximum of 30 days;
2. Make other necessary modifications to streamline the Termination of Parental Rights process; and
3. Report back to the Board within 90 days.

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Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor  
Chief Executive Officer  
County Counsel  
Director of Children and Family Services